mark on goods for sale within the country.

Submission of Forged Documents in KVIC in Visakhapatnam

3406. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forged documents are routinely submitted to the KVIC office in Visakhapatnam for release of funds to applicants;

(b) whether it is a fact that complaints of this nature have been ignored by KVIC in the last two years;

(c) whether steps will be taken to carefully equire and apprehend the culprits who submitted forged documents and obtained financial assistance from the Visakhapatnam office of KVIC; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to initiate severe action against the officers and applicants/beneficiaries who collaborated in cheating the KVIC for huge sums of money and subsidies?

THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Projected Growth of Export

3407. PROF. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have estimated that export will rise to US $ 90 billion a year by 2002 A.D. on a projected growth of 20 or 20-plus per cent in dollar terms per year;

(b) the details of the justification for such a projection;

(c) whether it is a fact that these projections do not take into account complicating variables such as rupee-dollar exchange; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) (a) and (b) Considering the important role of exports in inproving the balance of trade and sustained export growth at 18-20% in $ terms achieved in recent years, it is envisaged that the 20% dollar growth in exports can be sustained. Arithmetically the export value at 20% annual dollar growth would be around US $ 90 billion by 2002.

(c) and (d) The estimates are in dollar values over the base year export values realised in dollar terms.

Consumer Protection Act

3408. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to certain reports indicating that the basic purpose of the Consumer Protection Act is to statutorily settle consumer grievances within a mandatory period of six months is not being achieved;

(b) if so, the details of difficulties coming in the way of achievement of purpose;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The pendency of cases in Consumer Courts is on account of factors such as inadequate infrastructure, in the fora frequent adjournments etc. To strengthen the infrastructure of the Consumer Courts, as well as to reduce pendency of cases in the Consumer, Courts, Central

Government has commenced a scheme of one-time financial assistance of Rs. 61 crores to the States and UTs. The Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution also monitors, in consultation with the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) and the respective State Governments, the progress of disposal of cases by the Consumer Courts. The NCDRC has issued appropriate instructions to Consumer Courts for improving their performance in disposing the cases.

Expert of Manganese and Chrome Ores

3409. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister .of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Manganese and Chrome Ores being exported during last 3 years, year-wise and the amount of foreign exheange earned thereby till 31st July, 19%;

(b) the gap between demand and supply position in respect of these ores in the country; and

(c) whether any assessment was made if so, when alongwith the details of results?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) As per information available, export of Chrome Ore and Manganese Ore during the last 3 years and for the period from 1.4.96 to 31.7.96 is as under:—

(Quantity in Tonnes)
(Value in Rs. Thousand)

year	Chrome Ore		Manganese Ore	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1993-94 (upto 31.7.96)	308267	735233	286450	380284
1994-95	490212	1027322	276598	345715
1995-96'	347705	1608413	238157	334144
1996-97*	120000	614700	220000	310000

*Provisional

(b) and (c) As per information available, there is no gap in overall demand and supply of these minerals.

Noa-Suppiy of Coal to Plants in Punjab

3410. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coal in the different coal mines of the country during the last five years;.

(b) the specific reasons for not supplying the coal for the plants functioning in the State of Punjab; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The total production of coal from different coal mines in the country during last five years was as under:

(million tonnes)

1991-92	229.28
1992-93	238.26
1993-94	246.04
1994-95	253.73
1995-96	270.13